

# Cross-Cutting Management Issues

## Hot Mix Asphalt

WSDOT tracks both the projected and awarded amounts of Hot Mix Asphalt (HMA) for two reasons. First, the agency projects HMA amounts so that asphalt-producing vendors can better anticipate future HMA volumes. This helps these private vendors better manage their production and reduce their costs to deliver the HMA, and ultimately results in more competitive bidding and favorable prices by construction contractors on WSDOT projects. Secondly, WSDOT measures actual tons awarded as an indicator of the agency's estimating accuracy and delivery record.

### Actual Hot Mix Asphalt Tons Awarded in 2006 Under Projection by 7% Due to Project Delays

In October 2005, WSDOT forecasted that 1,213,985 tons of Hot Mix Asphalt (HMA) would be awarded in contracts throughout the state by September 2006. The final amount was 1,126,701 tons awarded, 93% of the original forecast. This represents a difference of 87,284 tons. The actual HMA awarded was under projection by 7%, slightly worse than the normal difference in actual and projected HMA tons.

The under-projection was due to three delayed projects accounting for 87,956 tons of HMA, roughly the difference between the HMA tons forecast and the tons awarded (see table below). The projects were delayed due to geotechnical issues and utility relocation. WSDOT plans to advertise these projects within the next year, and they are included in the 2007 HMA award projection.

### Major Hot Mix Asphalt Projects Delayed, 2006

Project Location	Fund Source	Contract Tons	Reason for Delay
SR 522 near Bothell	Nickel	47,650	Environmental permitting and geotechnical issues. Project should be advertised in 2007.
SR 20 near Oak Harbor	PEF	23,500	Utility relocation issues. Advertisement delayed until late 2006/early 2007.
I-90 near Cle Elum	PEF	16,806	Project delayed due to emergency contract for slope stabilization in same general vicinity. Project will be advertised in 2007.
<b>Total</b>		<b>87,956</b>	

Source: WSDOT Construction Office

### Hot Mix Asphalt Pavement Awarded - Projected vs. Actual, 2002-2006

In Tons, October through September of each year<sup>1</sup>

Year	Projected	Actual	% Difference
2002	1,373,465 <sup>2</sup>	1,364,021	-1%
2003	1,417,126	1,825,442	+29% <sup>3</sup>
2004	1,324,218	1,299,377	-2%
2005	1,779,826	1,685,394	-5%
2006	1,213,985	1,126,701	-7%

Source: WSDOT Construction Office

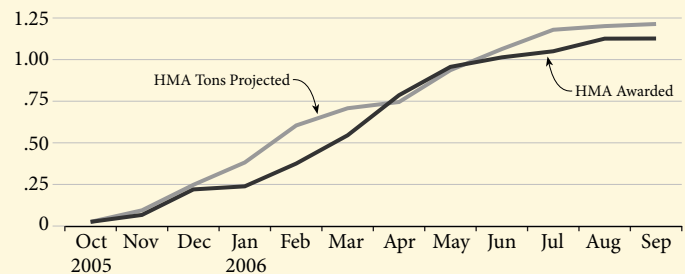
<sup>1</sup>Awarded tons are tracked from October through September of each year, providing a better measurement of the work schedule and better planning for the paving industry than the calendar year. Construction projects awarded in the fall typically do not begin work until the next year due to inclement weather conditions.

<sup>2</sup>The projection for 2002 was revised in March 2002 by the Transportation Commission following budget cuts.

<sup>3</sup>The 2003 "Nickel" Transportation Funding Package was passed after the projection was made for 2003. WSDOT subsequently awarded five projects from the Nickel funding package with a combined total of 315,285 tons of HMA.

### Hot Mix Asphalt Tons Awarded October 2005 - September 2006

Tons in Millions



Source: WSDOT Construction Office



Workers place HMA with a spreader box to create a paved walkway at the Iron Goat Interpretive Center.



Crews place HMA with an asphalt paving machine on I-405 at Totem Lake.